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[Inclosure.]

Number of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction during the two weeks ended November 18, 1899.

Infectious diseases:	
Tuberculosis.....	12
Malarial fever	5
Typhoid fever.....	1
Dysentery	7
Smallpox (a).....	1
Tetanus	3
Measles.....	1
Septicæmia puerperal.....	1
	31
Diseases of the digestive apparatus.....	56
Diseases of the respiratory system.....	7
Diseases of the circulatory system.....	4
Diseases of the nervous system.....	1
Other diseases (anæmia, inanition, etc.).....	37
	136
Total.....	136
Births in the same period.....	55

A disinfecting room to be constructed at Ponce.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 21, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that on November 11, 1899, I made a request that the governor-general cause an air-tight room to be constructed at the Playa Ponce for the disinfection of infected baggage arriving at that port.

The application was approved and referred to the board of public works, with instructions to locate it upon public land. The architect will confer with Assistant Surgeon Lavinder as to the details and requirements.

I have suggested that a building 20 by 45 feet. with 10 feet inside from ceiling to floor, be erected, one end ceiled off, about 15 by 20 feet, lined with tin or sheets of zinc, for formaldehyd disinfection. The reserve space to be used as a baggage room, and of sufficient size to house a steam disinfecting chamber, when one is furnished the station.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,

Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

Smallpox on Spanish steamer Buenos Aires at San Juan.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 14, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival, at sundown November 11, 1899, of the Spanish steamer *Buenos Aires* from Cadiz, Barcelona, and the Canaries, bound for Havana, with a case of smallpox.

The case developed a few days after leaving Cadiz in the person of a passenger bound for Havana, and was isolated. The vessel was placed in quarantine under guard. The following day the patient died about the time preparations were completed for his removal to Cabras Island.

The body was ordered wrapped in a sheet saturated in bichloride solution, and as the vessel proceeded immediately from this port, the burial was directed to be made at sea.

All local baggage was disinfected and exposed nonimmunes were vaccinated and detained at the station under observation.

a In the country.

The following message was dispatched to the quarantine officer at Havana: Buenos Aires, Spanish trans-Atlantic Line has had deaths from smallpox during the voyage.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Effort to obtain a disinfecting barge at San Juan.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, November 21, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to state that owing to the uneasiness upon this island in regard to the plague and the commercial relations of this island with the ports of Spain, I invited the principal steamship agents to this office for conference.

The fact was elicited that in case of danger, vessels from infected or suspected ports would have to first proceed to a port where suitable disinfection could be carried out, or else total nonintercourse established with Porto Rico.

They immediately proposed to start a subscription among the merchants to purchase a disinfection barge, but I suggested that they address a petition to the governor-general to supply a well equipped modern floating disinfection plant.

A strong paper was signed by 50 of the principal business men and steamship lines. The governor referred the petition to the superior board of health, and as chairman of the committee on internal quarantine, I made the following indorsement:

"Respectfully returned to the superior board of health with the report that Port Rico possesses no apparatus for the disinfection of infected vessels, and the danger and interference to commerce is not overstated. The Department at Washington will cause a suitable floating plant to be fitted up in the States, when an allotment is made to pay for the same from the insular funds of the island, and no doubt the barge would be towed to Porto Rico by a vessel of the Revenue-Cutter Service, thereby saving expense of transfer."

The petition was returned to General Davis with a favorable recommendation by the superior board of health. I also cited the good work performed by the barge *Protector* in Havana harbor, and advocated a similar barge and not a makeshift.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

Eagle Pass, Tex., November 28, 1899.—I have the honor to report that the rigid quarantine at Presidio, Tex., is still maintained, as smallpox continues to exist in epidemic form on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande across from that place.

Collector Drake desires me to proceed to Presidio as early as possible and report accurately on the situation, as the people of the Presidio country seem to think that such a rigid quarantine as is now in progress is not necessary. I shall endeavor, when I get to Presidio, to allow entry of people to the American side after detention and disinfection of themselves and their baggage, provided that this plan is feasible after thoroughly investigating the conditions, etc.